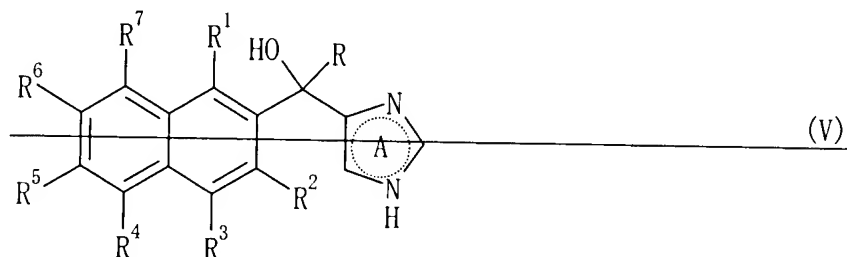


Abstract

The present invention provides an industrially advantageous production method of compound (V) having a steroid C_{17,20}-lyase inhibitory action, which affords this compound in a high yield with a less number of steps without using a heavy metal compound:



wherein ring A is an optionally substituted imidazole ring, R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group, and R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are each a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, OH, SH or NH₂, an acyl group or a halogen and the like.

A method for producing a compound of the formula:



wherein R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group and ring A is an imidazole ring which is optionally substituted further, or a salt thereof, which method comprises reacting a compound of the formula:



wherein ring A is as defined above, or a salt thereof, and a compound of the formula:



wherein M^1 is an alkali metal atom or a group of the formula:
 $-Mg-Y^1$ where Y^1 is a halogen atom, and R is as defined above, or
a salt thereof, and bringing the resulting product into contact
with an acid.